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Approved For Release 2003/01/24 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000500050011-0

NRO review completed

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT : Improvement of COMCONA/M

REFERENCE : (1) [] 4634-63, Memo from NRO to DD/R,
dated 7 January 1963, Subject as above

(2) Itak Corp. R Prime Proposal, No. 3122,
dated 31 December 1962

1. Reference (2) contains certain suggestions on improvements on the COMCONA M system as requested by NRO (Reference 1). These improvements are generally within the scope of the current improvement program being implemented by the Technical Directive route. Because of the impact of the items proposed on all associate contractors, the suggested improvements are an agenda item at the SETD meeting on 13 February 1963.

2. The following comments pertain to the individual items of Reference (2):

Item I: Ia, the titanium assembly for reduced thermal sensitivity, has already been qualified, and flight configurations are due for delivery shortly. Item Ib, active thermal control, is not discussed in the proposal generally. INSC has an effort under way for improvement of the passive system. Incidentally, our best performance appears to be in the region of 80°F rather than the design value of 70°F.

Item II: Roller modifications: This has been under investigation, and the OCS is expecting a design proposal to permit incorporation of the needed rollers.

Item III: Need for exposure control devices has not been established, considering the additional complications of automatic devices. INSC has proposed a measurement of light levels received at the skin line. Should the light received show sufficient correlation with desired exposures, Itak will be asked to submit a Technical Directive for an automatic exposure control.

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Item IV: Weight control, on a system basis, is already a high-priority activity of all contractors and of SETD.

Item V: Ultra Thin Base film is not available in required quantities. At present, only limited test samples are available. Redesign to handle thin base material should await further development by Eastman.

Item VI: V/A sensors are being evaluated on other programs. These developments will be evaluated for the CORONA program when development has proceeded further.

Item VII: Redesign of CORONA systems: This does not seem warranted at this time, considering development status of ultra thin base materials, v/a sensors and automatic exposure control.

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
(Research)

Signature Recommended:

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

JACK C. LEDFORD
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director, OSA

C/DD/OSA/JPARANDOSKY:rel
(11 February 1963)

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